aid for funding feasibility studies for expressway projects, providing training facilities for personnel in relevant areas.

(iv) 2 MOUs for cooperation in Heavy Oil was signed by ONGC and Oil India Ltd. and the Alberata Research Council for increasing the energy self sufficiency in India through an accelerated and orderly approach to the development of India's non-conventional hydrocarbon reserves including heavy oil.

[Translation]

Assistance to Sri Lanka

2818. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which India and Sri Lanka are collaborating at present;

(b) the areas in which they propose to collaborate in near future; and

(c) the annual assistance provided by India to Sri Lanka during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) and (b). Relations between India and Sri Lanka are close and cordial, marked by wide-ranging cooperation in various fields. The areas of collaboration include Industry, Trade, Science & Technology, Civil Aviation, Education, Dairy Development, Training & Human Resource Development etc. In the field of Dairy Development. a joint venture between NDDB and MILCO (a Sri Lankan Govt. Agency) is expected to be functional in the near future. In addition, a large number of joint ventures involving Indian companies have been set up in Sri Lanka. The economic reforms within India coupled with the incentives offered by the Sri Lankan Government continue to present a sound base to the Indian companies. The notable trend in joint ventures is diversification from the traditional segments of textile and transport into new areas such as chemicals, hotels, food and beverages, construction, drugs and Pharmaceuticals, automobile tyres, steel, sugar and medical care. A credit line of US$ 30 million was made available to the Sri Lankan Government in Jan'96 for import of goods and services from India.

A meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission is scheduled to take place in Colombo later this year. This would be preceeded by meetings of sub-Commissions on Trade, Finance and Investment, Science & Technology and Social, Cultural and Educational Affairs. These meetings would review progress made in existing areas of cooperation and also identify new areas of meaningful cooperation.

(c) Assistance provided to Sri Lanka through the "Aid to Sri Lanka" Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs was to the tune of Rs.4.4176 crores in 1993-94; Rs. 4.8381 crores in 1994-95 and Rs. 6.1792 crores in 1995-96.

Indian Institute of Technology in Bihar

2819. SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more units of Indian Institute of Technology in Bihar.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Owing to financial constraints. the Government, at present, does not propose to set up any more Indian Institutes of Technology in the country.

Indian Students in Ruseia

2820. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the "Indian Express" dated March 24, 1996 to the effect that Indian students studying in Russia and other erstwhile Soviet Republics are engaged in smuggling and other such activities in guise of courier service to meet their expenses;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard: and

(c) the steps taken so far and the steps proposed to be taken to alleviate the difficulties being faced by such Indian students?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of some cases of Indian students studying in Russia having indulged in illegal activities. While illegal activities cannot be condoned, Government are conginzant of the difficulties being faced by Indian students owing to reduction or elimination of stipends and increase in the cost of living.

(c) Government have taken steps to alleviate these difficulties to the extent possible. In recent years, There has been considerable liberalisation in the foreign exchange conversion facilities available for students going for higher studies abroad.

In November 1994, Government entered into an agreement with the Russian State Committee for Higher Education providing for placement of Indian students in recognised institutions of higher education in Russia, as well as guaranteed terms and conditions for the entire duration of their study, against payment in hard currency.

When approached by students who face problems as a result of enhancement of fees, our embassies in these countries. after examining the fact, intervene as necessary to ensure equitable treatment for Indian Students.

Whenever specific difficulties are brought to the notice of our Embassies, efforts are made to resolve them in accordance with the rules and regulation

[English]

Ban on Oxytocin

2821. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oxytocin a drug which was developed for facilitating delivery of child. is being used in excessive quantities on cows/buffaloes for letting down of milk since it is available even in grocery shops easily:

(b) whether it is well established that by the very use of oxytocin. milk properties change and uterus of cows also becomes defective: and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to. be taken by the Government to ban oxytocin keeping in view the health of both the animals and human beings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a). Oxytocin is some times used in cows and buffaloes which suffer from let down problems.

(b) No Sir, there are no such published scientific reports in this regard

(c) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Armed Forces

2822. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of measures taken to modernise the Indian weapons system:

(b) whether different wings of defence forces Army. Navy and Air Force have been complaining about the non-availability of adequate funds to upgrade and modernise and also adequately maintain the weapons; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Government are committed to modernise the Armed Forces within the available resources. Modernisation is an ongoing process. A concerted exercise is undertaken every year to determine the priorities of modernisation taking into account the changing threat scenario, the advancement of technology, the global and regional security environment and the availability of resources. It will not be in the national security interest to divulge the details of the modernisation programme.

(b) and (c). The requirement of funds are worked out in consultation with the Service Headquarters and are projected to the Ministry of Finance to enable them to decide on the Defence allocation keeping in view the overall availability of resources, national security and the demends of other sectors of the economy.

[Translation]

Construction of Sindhmukh Branch of Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan

2823. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the proposed course of Sindhmukh Branch of Indira Gandhi Canal under construction in Rajasthan:

(b) the length of the said canal constructed and the remaining length of the canal to be constructed; and

(c) whether more villages will be connected by the said canal?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The proposed Sindhmukh Canal is a part of Sidhmukh and Nohar project implemented by Rajasthan to draw water from Bhakra main line in Punjab ex-Tohna Head works. The Canal will traverse through Haryana and enter Rajasthan to irrigate the command area of Nohar and Bhadra Tehsils of Hanumangarh District and Rajgarh and Taranagar Tehsils of Churu District.

(b) As reported by Government of Rajasthan, the proposed length of the Sidhmukh Canal System including Sidhmukh Feeder, Raslana distributary and Raslana minors is about 223.66 km., out of which about 75.95 km. has been completed upto January. 1996.

(c) No. Sir.

[English]

New Medical Colleges

2824. SHRI NAKLi SINGH :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Medical College in Saharanpur for the benefit of students of the area who want to study medical sciences and also to provide medical services to the urban and rural poor of the area;